



DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

801 K STREET, MS 19-01, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • (916) 322-4027 • WWW.CALRECYCLE.CA.GOV

February 5, 2016

Hilda L. Solis, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, First District
500 West Temple Street, Room 856
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Via email to FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov and EPR@LACOUNTY.GOV

Dear Chair Solis:

CalRecycle shares your vision for implementing stewardship programs that will provide safe, convenient, reliable, and accessible collection opportunities for unwanted pharmaceuticals and sharps to all residents, such as the draft "Pharmaceutical and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance" in Los Angeles County.

Home-generated pharmaceutical and sharps waste create serious problems in California. For example, sixty-eight percent of people aged twelve or older obtain pain relievers for nonmedical use from a friend or relative. Many stakeholders have also raised concerns about environmental impacts resulting from flushing pharmaceuticals and disposing of them in landfills, highlighting the need for safe pharmaceutical waste collection programs. Although we recognize that these issues cannot alone be solved with better recovery programs, this effort is definitely a step in the right direction.

This proposed ordinance is consistent with CalRecycle's EPR checklist¹ and the recycling and waste management goals reflected in *California's 75 Percent Initiative*², as promoting extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs is one of the five primary strategies detailed in that report. In addition, EPR was one of two recommended initiatives in the Department's 2010 report to the Legislature regarding *Recommendations for Home-Generated Pharmaceutical Collection Programs in California*³. That report specifically recommended establishing clear state agency roles and responsibilities through state statute with an EPR approach.

In the absence of a statewide program, CalRecycle supports and believes it is important for local governments to provide safe and reliable collection opportunities to protect public health and safety and the environment.

¹ CalRecycle, *CalRecycle Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Legislation Checklist*. 2014. Available: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/epr/Resources/ChecklistStd.doc>.

² CalRecycle, *AB 341 Report to the Legislature*. 2015. Available: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications/Documents/1538/20151538.pdf>

³ CalRecycle, *Report to the Legislature, Recommendations for Home-Generated Pharmaceutical Collection Programs in California*. 2010. Available: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications/Documents/1370/20110080.pdf>.



Should you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me or my staff, Howard Levenson at (916) 341-6311 or Brenda Smyth at (916) 341-6605.

Sincerely,


Scott Smithline
Director

Cc: Howard Levenson, CalRecycle
Brenda Smith, CalRecycle
Kyle Pogue, CalRecycle